

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-03 NSC-05 INR-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 132

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WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7861

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (MANILA):

BOURNE VISIT AND STATEMENT

1. DR. PETER BOURNE ARRIVED IN MANILA AS SCHEDULED, MONDAY, MAY 23. A LOCAL TELEVISION CREW WAS AT THE AIRPORT FOR HIS ARRIVAL AND HE MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT. AT THE AIRPORT AS WELL WAS AMBASSADOR BENJAMIN ROMUALDEZ, BROTHER OF THE FIRST LADY, AND THE MOST TRUSTED ADVISOR TO BOTH MARCOSES. ROMUALDEZ SUGGESTED HE COULD ARRANGE, AND IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR, DR. BOURNE TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE AT THE PALACE WITH MRS. MARCOS. SCHEDULE WAS REVISED AND PALACE MEETING EXPANDED TO INCLUDE PHILIPPINE SECRETARIES GATMAITAN AND LIM, AS WELL AS SCELSI AND STULL FOR US (THIS MEETING REPORTED SEPTTEL).

2. DR. BOURNE ADDRESSED THE BOARD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PRESENTATION BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT. HIS STATEMENT IS SUBSTANTIALLY AS PREVIOUSLY PREPARED, BUT WE WILL BE CABLING FULL TEXT WITH ADDITIONS AS DELIVERED. BOURNE'S APPEARANCE WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE OPENING SESSION OF GENERAL DEBATE. REACTIONS ACROSS A BROAD SPECTRUM OF COUNTRY DELEGATIONS
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AND SECRETARIAT PROFESSIONALS WERE LARGELY VERY POSITIVE, THOUGH SOME SAW IT AS CONNECTED TO THE GRANT CANDIDACY.

A. SAMPLING OF INITIAL COUNTRY REACTIONS:

PHILIPPINES - EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH PRESENCE OF BOURNE, PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE AND STATEMENT. SINCE THE US WAS THE

FIRST COUNTRY TO SPEAK IN THE GENERAL DEBATE AFTER THE HOST, THE US HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET A POSITIVE OVERALL TONE FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE, WHICH IT DID MOST SATISFACTORILY.

SWEDEN - US COMMITMENT TO AN INCREASED UNICEF CONTRIBUTION HELPING IN MOVING TOWARD MEETING GREATER RESOURCE NEEDS AND FINANCIAL TARGETS.

JAPAN - VERY IMPRESSED WITH US ACTION REFLECTING GREATER ATTENTION FOR UNICEF.

PAKISTAN KUDOS FOR THE ENTIRE EXERCISE.

NETHERLANDS - BOURNE VISIT AND PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE AND ASTUTE MOVE WHICH SHOULD STRENGTHEN US POSITION IN SEEKING GRANT'S APPOINTMENT.

THAILAND - TONE OF STATEMENT DIGNIFIED AND SUPPORTIVE OF BASIC UNICEF OBJECTIVES.

CANADA - STATEMENT INTERESTING AND CONSTRUCTIVE BUT HOPED THAT US WOULD ALSO HAVE STATEMENT ON SPECIFIC UNICEF POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT.

FINLAND - GOOD POLITICAL STATEMENT.

INDIA - A SOLID STATEMENT, AN ACTIVIST POSTURE.

B. UNICEF SECRETARIAT: HIGHLY PLEASED WITH EXPRESSION OF
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TOP LEVEL USG SUPPORT AND STRESSED THIS IS FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THAT SUCH US SUPPORT HAS BEEN ENUNCIATED. SECRETARIAT ALSO NOTED EMPHASIS ON NUTRITION AND MCH IN DR. BOURNE'S STATEMENT.

3. BOURNE LUNCED WITH ORDONEZ PLAJA, LABOUISSSE, SCELSI AND HERTER. LUNCH WAS LOW KEY AND DID NOT GENERATE DISCUSSION OF SENSITIVE ISSUES. LABOUISSSE DID RAISE WITH BOURNE MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER'S POSSIBLE ROLE DURING IYC.

4. UNICEF SECRETARIAT (EGGERS) ADVISED US DELEGATION FOLLOWING BOURNE'S DEPARTURE THAT LAOTIANS WERE VERY PLEASED THAT DR. BOURNE TOOK OCCASION TO CHAT BRIEFLY AND INFORMALLY WITH THEIR DELEGATION PRIOR TO DELIVERY OF HIS STATEMENT. EGGERS HAS ALSO BEEN TOLD BY VIETNAMESE THAT THEY WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH US DELEGATION IN THE COURSE OF THE BOARD MEETING. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE.
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